

AN EVENING IN

Italy



PRESENTED BY UNI OPERA AS PART OF
THE SPOTLIGHT SERIES
WITH ENGLISH SUPERTITLES

7:30 PM
OCTOBER 19

BENGTSON AUDITORIUM,
RUSSELL HALL

TICKETS REQUIRED

School of Music
University of Northern Iowa

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Thank you for joining us tonight at UNI Opera's Spotlight Series performance, "An Evening in Italy." The program offers a lot of variety and showcases the versatile talents of our wonderful students here at UNI.

The first thing I'm sure you're wondering is how *My Fair Lady* and *West Side Story* are related to Italian opera! Good question! The answer is that they are being offered tonight as an *Intermezzo* to our program. An *Intermezzo* is an Italian genre of entertainment that was sung and performed between the acts or scenes of an opera seria in the 18th century. The roots go even further back to the *Intermedio* musical entertainments that were performed during a stage a play as early as the 15th century to emphasize the division of acts. Earlier this month, five of our opera students traveled to Costa Rica as a part of the Promising Young Artists of the 21st Century Program, and these two sets were part of their repertoire. I thought it would be a perfect addition to tonight's program to include these greats of American Musical Theatre as an *Intermezzo* between Donizetti and Mozart. I think Mozart in particular would be pleased!

In addition to connections with Italian opera, tonight's programming is organized around the idea of "transformation." In our scenes, feelings transform, characters transform both by coming of age and also through drastic costume changes, the performers transform from one character to the next, the stage transforms with use of light, fabric, and plywood, and scenic elements become something new when rearranged in the space. We have spent the semester taking something and examining it anew: how many ways can we use one rehearsal skirt, one mod block, one scrim? It has been fascinating, and I am proud of the creativity of our cast and production team. I would be remiss not to give a special thanks to Alexandra Saulsbury who has served as my assistant director and stage manager, all while also singing in two of the scenes.

Enjoy tonight's production, and please join us as a member of the new UNI Opera Guild, and at our upcoming production of *Susannah* by Carlisle Floyd on January 22 and 23, 2016 in the Great Hall of the Gallagher Bluedorn.

Thank you for supporting UNI Opera!



Mitra Sadeghpour

PROGRAM

***L'elisir d'amore* (1832) Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848)**

“Saria possibile...Dell'elisir mirabile”

Giannetta: Kelly Behling

Nemorino: Blair Remmers

Adina: MaKayla McDonald

Dulcamara: Aaron DeSantiago

Women of the village: Rachel Storlie, Kayla Kjeldseth, Haley Steele, Alexandra Saulsbury, Lauren Soukup, Michelle Monroe, Kelly Noltner, Lauren Day, Alissandra Henkle, Megan Grey, Kayla Schmitz, Athena Walton, Laurel Boston

Piano: Elisabeth Imershvili

“Una furtiva lagrima”

Nemorino: Blair Remmers

Piano: Korey Barrett

Bassoon soloist: Victoria Piper

“Prendi, per me sei libero”

Adina: MaKayla McDonald

Piano: James Jenkins

L'elisir d'amore (The Elixir of Love) tells the love story of Nemorino and Adina. The young peasant Nemorino is in love with Adina, a rich farm-owner. Adina plays hard-to-get and goes as far as setting up a false marriage to another man. In a desperate attempt to gain her affections, Nemorino purchases an “elixir of love” from the charlatan Dr. Dulcamara. However, Nemorino has to agree to join the army to make enough money to buy this potion. Meanwhile, Nemorino's rich uncle has died and left him with a great inheritance. The women of the village hear about his inheritance even before Nemorino does and they soon flock to Nemorino, all trying to earn his affections. Unaware of his forthcoming wealth, Nemorino believes the love potion is working. He happily entertains the women, ignoring Adina and her advances. Although, after realizing that Adina truly loves him and his actions have hurt her, his heart softens and he sings “Una furtiva lagrima,” proclaiming his desire to be close to her.

(continued)

After learning that Nemorino he had joined the army, Adina buys out his military contract, saving him from being sent to war. She sings “Prendi, per me sei libero” to him, pleading him to stay and live in his native lands where people love him, away from the bitterness of war.



An “Intermezzo”

**My Fair Lady (1956) Alan Jay Lerner (1918-1986)
and Frederick Loewe (1901-1988)**

Choreography: Mandy Masmar
Piano: Michael Gookin

“I Could Have Danced All Night”

Eliza Doolittle: Megan Grey

After working late into the night on her language skills, Eliza finally grasps the language concepts she has been working so diligently on with Professor Higgins. Mr. Higgins, Colonel Pickering, and Eliza have an impromptu dance in the study, celebrating her growing language skills. It’s after 3 a.m. by now, and Eliza is elated, thanks to her recent success.

“The Rain in Spain”

Eliza Doolittle: Megan Grey
Professor Higgins: Aaron DeSantiago

Henry Higgins, a phonetics professor, has taken on Eliza Doolittle as a student. Eliza has a strong Cockney accent, and Professor Higgins boasts that he can make anyone speak like royalty. The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain” is a phrase he uses to practice proper speech.

“Get Me to the Church”

Alfred Doolittle: Aaron DeSantiago

It is the eve of Alfred Doolittle’s wedding. Mr. Doolittle, Eliza’s father, has been in a long-term relationship with and is going to make it official in the morning. Mr. Doolittle is enjoying his last evening as a bachelor, but wants his friends to be sure they get him to the church on time.



**West Side Story (1957) Stephen Sondheim (b. 1930)
and Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)**

Piano: Michael Gookin

“Maria”

Tony: Adam Brown

“One Hand, One Heart”

Maria: Kayla Kjeldseth

Tony: Adam Brown

“Somewhere”

A Girl: Megan Grey and Kayla Kjeldseth

“Balcony Scene”

Maria: Kayla Kjeldseth

Tony: Adam Brown

“Tonight”

Riff: Aaron DeSantiago

Anita: Megan Grey

Tony: Adam Brown

Maria: Kayla Kjeldseth

West Side Story shows the challenges that arise in the young peoples' lives of two rival gangs. Tony, a former member of the Jets falls in love with Maria, the sister of the Jets' rival gang, the Sharks. "Maria" is a love ballad sung by Tony after meeting Maria for the first time. Tony and Maria dream of their future together as they sing "One Hand, One Heart" and imagine they are bride and groom. In the "Balcony Scene," Maria and Tony confess their love for each other. Due to cultural barriers, Tony is not welcome at her home so she must ask him to leave before her family gets home and sees him there with her. They plan to meet again. "Tonight" holds something different for each of the characters. Riff is preparing for the rumble between the Sharks and the Jets. Tony is convinced to join the rumble, although he wants to go to Maria. Maria and Anita dream of their lovers.

***Il barbiere di Siviglia* (1775) Gioachino Antonio Rossini (1792-1868)**

"Una voce poco fa"

Rosina: Megan Grey

Piano: James Jenkins

Rosina is a beautiful young woman who is betrothed to her older and overbearing guardian, Bartolo. She is allowed little freedom from Bartolo because he wants her all to himself. Despite this, she has gained the attention of the young Count Almaviva who sets out to make her love him. He disguises himself as a poor musician named Lindoro and sings to her outside of her window. She hears his voice and her heart is captured by his music. She sings this aria, exclaiming her newfound love for Lindoro.

***Così fan tutte* (1790) W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)**

Piano: James Jenkins

“Ah, guarda, sorella”

Fiordiligi: Kelly Noltner

Dorabella: Kayla Schmitz

“Bella vita militar...Alla bella Despinetta”

Fiordiligi: Rachel Storlie

Dorabella: Michelle Monroe

Despina: Haley Steele

Ferrando: Luke Fosselman

Guglielmo: Sean Smith

Don Alfonso: Andrew Cutler

Soldiers: Andrew Hanson, Blair Remmers, Bradley Boyd,

Aaron DeSantiago, Carlos Woerner

Women of the village: Kelly Behling, Kayla Kjeldseth, Alexandra Saulsbury,

Lauren Soukup, Megan Grey, Michelle Monroe, MaKayla McDonald,

Kelly Noltner, Kayla Schmitz

Set in 18th Century Italy, Mozart's opera *Così fan tutte* (All Women are Like That) begins with two young couples happily in love. The sisters Fiordiligi and Dorabella are smitten with their lovers. The young men, Guglielmo and Ferrando, are confident that the women will remain faithful to them through anything. The more experienced Don Alfonso challenges their unrelenting faith and convinces them to test the ladies' fidelity. The young men pretend to leave for war and return to Fiordiligi and Dorabella disguised as foreigners. The men then try to seduce each other's lover. Don Alfonso easily convinces the ladies' maid, Despina, to help him with this elaborate scheme.

PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

Director Mitra Sadeghpour
Music Direction.Korey Barrett
Stage Manager.Alexandra Saulsbury
Choreographer.Mandy Masmar
Scenic Design and Technical Director.Lawrence Guadagnoli
Costume Design.Danielle Mason
Lighting Design and Light Board Operator.Zachary Chaplain
Props.MaKayla McDonald and Alexandra Saulsbury
Music Preparation.Korey Barrett, James Jenkins, and Elisabed Imerlishvili
Supertitles.Kelly Behling
Lighting Design and Supertitles Operator.Eric Pimentel
Supertitles CoordinatorShawn Poellet
Set construction crewMembers of the Opera Ensemble
Production Coordinator.Mitra Sadeghpour
Bengtson Auditorium Technical Support. Chuck Pugh
Poster and Cover Design.Derek Holt
Program notes.Michelle Monroe
Program.Caroline Boehmer
Opera Graduate AssistantsKelly Behling, MaKayla McDonald,
Michelle Monroe, and Blair Remmers
Voice FacultyJeffrey Brich, John Hines, Jean McDonald, Mitra Sadeghpour,
Katherine Osbourne, Elizabeth Bieber
Director, School of Music. John Vallentine

THANK YOU

UNI Theatre Department, Alexandra Saulsbury, Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, Chris Tuzicka, Dr. Cayla Bellamy, Flavia Vernescu, Tommy Truelson, Robin Wilson, Katie Ledtje, Tammy Hook, Centro Culturale, San Jose, Costa Rica

